

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) secured \$812,264 in congressionally-directed funding for projects in Cayuga County, including funding for a cheese production plant in the Aurelius Business Park, the regional methane digester facility and a Child Advocacy Center. These funds were included in a fiscal year 2009 funding bill, which will be voted on in the House of Representatives this week.

“I am proud to bring taxpayer money back to Cayuga County to invest in projects that will strengthen local economic development initiatives and create jobs.” **Arcuri said.** “For over a year now, I have fought for funding to help the county develop the business park and create jobs right here in Cayuga County. Funding in this bill to invest in alternative energy production and help area families and children not only creates jobs right now, but invests in a better future for everyone.”

Arcuri secured \$196,514 for the Cayuga County Industrial Development Authority to construct a soft cheese production plant in the Aurelius Business Park, which would attract the Saratoga Cheese Corporation and create over 275 jobs statewide. The construction phase will create around 150 full-time construction jobs over an 18-24 month period and the Saratoga Cheese Corporation will stimulate 35 more jobs for services related to kosher certification of milk.

Arcuri has worked with the county and Saratoga Cheese on the industrial park since last year. Arcuri and his staff have met with representatives from Saratoga Cheese in Auburn and in Washington, DC.

Arcuri also secured \$475,750 for the Cayuga County Regional Digester Facility. The regional methane digester will process manure and other organic waste supplied by local farmers to produce renewable energy that will reduce the energy costs of three county office buildings by approximately \$397,000 annually. The resulting materials are virtually odorless, and will help alleviate the application of too much manure on crop fields, thus improving water quality in Central New York. This regional digester project is an innovative effort that, when operational, will serve as a model for other units, not only in New York State, but throughout the country as well.

“The Cayuga County Digester is a win-win situation – we get rid of what we don’t want and make what we do in the process,” **Arcuri said.** “The digester will reduce local energy costs and help keep our water systems clean, all while setting an example for the whole country. I will continue to fight in Washington to make sure we get the funding and support to continue to build

Cayuga County as a regional center for alternative energy production.”

To help area children and families, Arcuri secured \$140,000 for Cayuga County to establish a Child Advocacy Center. Funds will be used to add and develop the IT infrastructure necessary to support the work of the multi-disciplinary team, Child Advocacy Center (CAC) staff and other ancillary service providers. Cayuga County’s CAC will incorporate the multi-disciplinary team, the local rape crisis program, and SANE Nurses into a fully accredited CAC.

“As district attorney in Oneida County for 13 years, I saw first hand how important it is to have a fully integrated support system for children and families faced with a crisis and I worked closely with Sheriff Gould here in Cayuga County to make this a reality,” **Arcuri continued.** “In Congress, I will continue to fight to make sure children in Cayuga County and across my district are safe.”

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which is expected to pass the House of Representatives this week. The legislation will then proceed to the Senate.

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